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TELEPHONE, BREKMAN 2206.

Mr. Baker's Education Progresses.

DID BERNARD N. BAKER seriously believe when he was appointed to membership in the Shipping Board that its activities were to be guided by the judgment and experience of the men composing it? If he did, Mr. BAKER is more innocent than his friends have wanted us to believe. Everybody in the country knew that the project which culminated in the formation of this board was the object of Secretary McADOO's special enthusiasm, and nobody, except apparently Mr. BAKER, cherished for a moment the delusion that its operations would escape the Secretary's controlling order.

Mr. BAKER has quit the board because Mr. McADOO and the President sought to dictate its choice of a chairman. He found that he was expected to take orders, to follow the plans of Mr. McADOO, to reduce himself to the status of a recording machine, and he resigned rather than fulfill the useful but humiliating part that had been assigned to him in the programme. His service has been short, but it has not been without benefit to the public. His departure from his job has shown the country exactly what the Shipping Board is destined by the President and the Secretary to be: a political body for the furtherance of political plans.

Why the Germans Are in Belgium.

THE ruler who said of the destiny of his country, "Our future is on the sea," must be deeply interested in the "secret memorandum" the German Navy League adopted at its meeting on June 17, 1916. The document is no longer secret, and it may be supposed that its publication by the *Kreuz Zeitung* just before Christmas was not a "newspaper beat." The Government sending up its peace balloon to see where the air of public opinion in the nations at war would carry it may well have desired the suppression of the Navy League's memorandum—very few journals followed the example of the *Kreuz Zeitung*; but high officers of the navy, among them Admiral von Tirpitz and Admiral KOESTER, president of the league, and politicians planning a Middle Europe hegemony, would naturally like to give publicity to their case when sentimentalists were talking about the surrender of territory won by the sword.

This notable memorandum deals with the strategic position of Germany as a sea power after the war. The navy, it is pointed out, cannot seriously threaten the British Isles because an attack upon the coasts, or a raid in force upon the mercantile marine, would take the fleet far from its home base and "into the area where the British and French coasts are bristling with defenses." No base could be created so long as a superior British fleet was still in existence. "The truth of this," says the memorandum, "is conclusively proved by the behavior of the British fleet during the war."

By Admiral KOESTER and his associates it is admitted that the acquisition of Heligoland, "the watchman of the German river mouths," has proved to be a disappointment, because England with her greatly superior navy "was still able to block the two exits from the North Sea in the west and in the north." What Germany must have, it is urged, to put her in a strong strategic position is the Belgium her armies have overrun and occupied. This is explicit enough:

"If the coast of Flanders had been in our power before this war, and if its approaches had been militarily developed, England would never have dared to throw her armies over to France, and it would never have been possible to direct English trade without disturbance to the Thames, and by means of barriers and the use of comparatively small forces to seal for our trade the western exit of the North Sea. . . . Moreover, if we had held what we now hold on the coast, we should have compelled the English fleet to divide, and as we should have given our naval forces, which were weaker but operating on the inner line, the possibility of striking blows which would soon have removed the existing inequality."

Economically as well as strategically Belgium is indispensable to the German Empire, the memorandum maintains: even before the war "Antwerp had become for the Rhinish, Thuringian and South German industries an export harbor the place of which could be taken by our North Sea ports only at the cost of consid-

erable sacrifices in time and freights." A picture is drawn of a restored Belgium becoming "a grievous peril for Germany," because Belgium would be supported by British sea power and by Britain's "army of millions based upon compulsory service."

These views of the influential Navy League cannot be dismissed as a Pan-German dream. They have the approval of the great steamship magnates, the export trade and the colonialists. They are dear to the heart of the Kaiser. Their publication may even please him at this time. It would be a great disillusion, a wrench to German pride, to retire from Brussels and Antwerp, to abandon all of the strategic coast so long coveted. It would be interesting to know whether the Imperial Government is considering such a sacrifice in any draft of peace terms that is being prepared.

In the Multitude of Interpreters There Is Folly.

THERE appears to be confusion in the camp of the faithful followers of President Wilson. The interpreters of his psychology are not in harmony. The distressful situation reveals itself to the wondering and abashed who do not even pretend to understand. On Wednesday the World reconstructed history and enlightened its bemused readers with this burning thought:

"President Wilson uttered a profound historical truth when he asserted in his address to the Senate that a durable peace 'must be a peace without victory.' 'And what is a peace without victory?' 'The classical example of modern times is furnished by the American civil war. . . . 'Only a peace between equals can last,' said President Wilson, and the peace that followed the civil war was a peace between equals."

We dropped a tear for the destroyed unconditional surrender fallacy, and were content to let it go at that, on the theory that one explanation was as good as another. Not so with the zealous defenders of the new humanity who do their defending in the immediate neighborhood of the Forty-second Street Country Club. The *Times* of Saturday burst forth:

"Arguments concerning the suggestion of 'peace without victory' which are founded on comparisons or contrasts with the end of the war of secession are entirely irrelevant. 'There can be no comparison. 'The war of secession ended with the complete destruction of the Confederate Government."

"There was no treaty of peace, and could not be any. 'From the Union standpoint the war was not one between equals, but a rebellion."

Must we fight the civil war all over again to bring the Dove of Peace to a comfortable roost?

Mr. Bryan Serves Notice.

MR. BRYAN used to complain that Colonel Roosevelt had stolen his thunder. Now the offender is Woodrow Wilson in the robes of the apostle of peace. Naturally Mr. BRYAN feels hurt and indignant. He did "yeoman work" for his friend in Kansas, Nebraska and other Western States during the last campaign, and behold, Mr. Wilson's admirers are nominating him for the Nobel Prize, which had become Mr. BRYAN's only object in life. Does he approve of the President's message to the nations at war? Yes, in a way, "but if I know the sentiment of the American people," says Mr. BRYAN, "it is inconceivable that they should be willing to put the American army and navy at the command of an international council."

Mr. Wilson cannot hold with the hare and run with the hounds if he is to retain Mr. BRYAN's esteem—and his support in Congress. "The President," says the Commoner, "has sown wheat and tares together. I hope that the Senate will approve of the wheat and reject the tares." Mr. BRYAN is most in earnest when he falls back upon Scripture for his illustrations. He has given notice that the President's programme must be peace undiluted and perpetual, and there will be trouble for the new candidate for the Nobel Prize.

The Savings Bank Depositor as a Railway Creditor.

IT appears that while life insurance companies have been investing in slightly less proportion in railway bonds and have gone in rather heavily for State, county and municipal securities, the savings banks have been buying railway bonds in large amounts and have been purchasing fewer governmental issues. The situation suggests a comparison.

While State, county and municipal extravagance has proceeded largely unchecked, railway extravagance long ago became a thing of merely historical report in this country. The aroused taxpayer has no more than begun to make his demand for economy effective in American States and cities; in the case of New York city it was not the taxpayer but the bankers and large lenders who forced the adoption of a pay as you go policy.

The railways, on the other hand, have accomplished economies, as in freight train loading, which are veritable triumphs, worthy to rank with the greatest feats of engineering. The agencies of government have wasted money until they have, in some cases, impaired their credit. The railways, despite their best efforts at retrenchment, find their credit restricted through their inability to control rates or otherwise insure sufficient earnings.

By every law of banking the rail-

ways are in an economically sound position, but their whole future is uncertain, and, as regards dividends, not bright. They may possibly be permitted to earn 6 per cent, and again they may not. By every law of banking the agencies of government are in a condition in many cases approaching bankruptcy, but the value of their securities is measurable only by the taxes the people can be made to pay, and these are theoretically unlimited.

The railways' creditors are now revealed as very largely the people of small means, savings bank depositors, who are also the principal taxpayers, and as such see governmental waste all about them. They know that Government ownership of the railways would mean a thousandfold more waste with no dividends, even the limited ones paid at present; with probable deficits and increased taxes. These taxpayers who are also railway creditors must see to it that governmental economies are effected and that, without blundering into Government ownership, the economically managed railways receive the reward of their efforts to serve the country cheaply and well.

The Dramatic in Court and a Disbarment.

THE disbarment of JOHN PALMIERI is a warning to lawyers who permit or encourage perjury for the sake of their clients and to those who become a part of the perjury itself. As PALMIERI appears to have done, in this case the attorney seems to have convinced at false testimony not only by permitting it to be given but by taking advantage of cheap theatricals. The chief witness for the prosecution in a case in which the defendant, a pander, was PALMIERI's client, disappeared. Later, before the trial, she was found by the defence, willing to appear as a witness for the creature to whom she was supposed to have given her evil earnings. As to the improper method of her entrance to the trial, the opinion of the Appellate Division is illuminating:

"We cannot think that an attorney conforms to professional standards when he permits a witness procured by him and regarded by him as highly important to stage a play by suddenly appearing in the court room with a suit case in her hand and by permitting her to testify that she had just arrived on an early morning train, that no one knew of her coming and that her attention had been called to the trial by an evening paper read in an up-State town the night before, when he knew that she had been sent for by his client and had been at his (PALMIERI's) home in consultation with him in a distant part of the city each day of the trial, and to his knowledge was deliberately and knowingly testifying falsely."

"We approve of the conclusion of the learned official referee that the respondent has been guilty of gross professional misconduct. We think that such conduct constituted deceit, and was prejudicial to the administration of justice, and that the respondent is unfit to continue the practice of law. He is therefore disbarred."

There may have been a question whether PALMIERI was responsible for the falsity of the woman's testimony, but when in summing up he thanked Providence for her timely appearance he crossed the line. As Presiding Justice CLARKE wrote:

"For the expression of his thankfulness to God for the intervention of divine Providence in producing this witness, when he himself was the instigator, he must be held responsible."

No amount of enthusiasm for a client's cause can excuse a lawyer who instigates, stages or permits such falseness. "The office of attorney," says the code of ethics of the American Bar Association, "does not permit, much less does it demand of him, for any client, violation of law or any manner of fraud or chicanery."

The Distillery in the Home.

A writer in the *Medical Times* not only takes a gloomy view of possible nationwide prohibition but suggests that it would add complications to our domestic life:

"Do we not know from past experience that where prohibition is enforced the people will make their own spirit? Prohibition could never be enforced, for it would be impossible for any government to police all homes. The making of spirits is a simple matter, requiring no more intelligence than bread making."

There is temptation here to suggest that if only a moderate quality of mind is necessary for the making of good bread then thousands of our bread cooks are intellectually subnormal; but it is more to the point to consider the prospect of every rebellious home being equipped with a distillery. To begin with, unless there should be a slump in the copper market the expense for worms and retorts would be huge. Again, there is little enough room in New York apartments as it is. If the still should come in the photograph would have to go out. Most important of all, would man or wife be the moonshiner? The operation would require some knowledge of mechanics and chemistry. Your average New York man looks upon a screwdriver as complicated, and compared with his wife he knows nothing of chemistry at all. Flat dwelling wives are so busy now that they do not go in for the bread making which the medieval writer holds so lightly. Would they not think they should be placed in the same I mention we invite them to pass the matter along and come out and he square. W. H. ROSS.

The Minus.

Knicker—What will probably be the outcome of the minus?

Bocker—Peace without Wilson.

able for certain citizens of the Appalachians. "Learn by mail to make your own mountain dew; a few minutes study every night of the courses from the Breathitt County Correspondence School will enable you to make, in your own home, the very best corn whiskey, raging red rye and peach brandy. Are you going to sit idly and soberly at home while all your neighbors are taking advantage of this big offer? How many internal revenue officers would be shot down the dumbwaiter shaft?"

It is well to add warningly that the *Medical Times* man declares that home made liquor is about the most injurious of any, but this opinion seems to be based on the illicit product of France, and there the peasants may not have taken up the work as seriously as our mountaineers did.

The German Crown Prince has been promoted to the rank of General, in anticipation of the fall of Verdun last spring.

There are a great number of drunkards among women.—From an official report.

The reference is not to New York city, but to Connecticut; the sentence is from a document on "The Condition of Wage Earning Women and Girls," submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly, the publication of which is approved by the Board of Control. Has the Land of Steady Habits lost the virtue of sobriety?

If American manufacturers have shown "better samples than the goods" intended to deliver, such a course cannot be condemned sufficiently.—The National Foreign Trade Council.

Exactly; such practices are worse than swindling, for they are stupid.

President LOWELL of the State Granges told the members of the City Club on Saturday that if embargoes were applied to foodstuffs the farmers "would stop growing food." The theory of the advocates of embargoes is that production would continue for a restricted market at the same pace it attained for a larger market. The farmers labor under no such restriction. A smaller acreage under cultivation would be the answer to the limitation of exportation, and the ultimate consumer would be left practically where he now is.

In the Dorchester, Mass., evening high school it has been found that classes in penmanship are helped by music played during their hours of practice. Letters written in four movements are written best to a fox trot; figures to waltz time. The system is ingenious, but terrifying. Will the advocates of 1918 demand a phonograph at his elbow?

From the fact that HENRY ARTHUR JONES advocates a pro-British educational campaign in this country we take it that he is not fully informed on the effects produced in America by propagandists.

THE ARMY IN MEXICO.

Mr. Wilson Responsible for Failure at Vera Cruz and Chihuahua.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: When General Pershing was sent into Mexico to "get Villa," he was soon stopped in his efforts by the attitude of the Carrancas, who refused the use of the railroads in Mexico to transport supplies or ammunition to Pershing. It became evident to every one but a blind man that the expedition should be withdrawn. But the Carrancas insisted upon the use of the railroads. The moment the Carrancas refused to withdraw, after such forced marches over deserts and mountains as have never been surpassed by the cavalry of any nation, after wounding Villa and scattering his immediate command, was then forced to give up further pursuit of Carranca's troops, who were supposed to be trying to help to "get Villa."

It is not the fault of the regular army that we are sneaking out of Mexico without getting Villa. It is the fault of Mr. Wilson's peculiar mind, which would not let Carranca's troops, who were supposed to be trying to help to "get Villa."

At Vera Cruz after General Funston landed, the Carrancas refused the call, was never sent to him, and no recruits were demoted to fill the ranks of the brigade. It was just allowed to dwindle and dwindle and finally was brought back without having accomplished anything except to make Vera Cruz a more orderly and cleaner city than it ever before and to leave in the minds of the inhabitants kindly feelings for their treatment by the regular army and the marines.

The army, if backed up at Washington, could have got that salute for the Carrancas. But Carranca refused to let Villa or Pernon into some mountain fastness. AN EX-REGULAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27.

Prohibition's Legislative Programme in This State.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The prohibition amendment to the State Constitution, which THE SUN says the temperance forces of the State have united upon, is only that part of their legislative programme which applies to the State as a whole.

For all units less than the State the temperance forces are united upon the optional prohibition demonstration bill, which will allow women a voice on an equality with men, without raising the issue of woman suffrage or the question of constitutional rights, in making prohibition territory in various cities, towns, villages and election districts, or groups of election districts, in cities of 50,000 or over. WILLIAM H. ANDERSON, State Superintendent Anti-Saloon League of New York.

New York, January 27.

The Short and Ugly Word in Kansas.

From the *Robinson Index*. There has just come to our ears a report that is absolutely untrue and the blackest kind of a lie. The party who started it is the black and white lie, and the truth is not in them. Some people cannot wait on their own merits but hope to be by trying to slander and blacken other characters with their smooth lying tongue. The party who started the lie knows who started it and this means that, if they don't think they should be placed in the same I mention we invite them to pass the matter along and come out and he square. W. H. ROSS.

The Hope of February.

Come February come, a month will have example for me. To help our noble President And guide him through the strife.

For Washington and Lincoln too Were not too proud to fight. And peace without a victory. They never preached as right.

So let us hope that Wilson learns To minimize his breaks. Besides, the month has two days less In which to make mistakes.

McLARDON WILSON.

THE UNDERCONSUMED.

"One school of economists," Mr. Trudge explained, "says there is no such thing as overproduction, that there is only underconsumption." "Does that apply to ideas?" inquired Mr. Budge.

"I suppose so," Trudge answered. "Where ideas?"

"Mr. Wilson's were the ones I had in mind," Budge told him. "The problem, then, is not to regulate the production of ideas but to increase their consumption. How can we create more consumers?"

"Consumers" replied Mr. Trudge, "are created by increased production, cheaper prices, advertising and better distribution."

"No doubt Mr. Wilson can and will increase his production, but it is too much to expect him to cheapen his ideas," said Budge. "In his case there is no need of advertising and better distribution would be impossible. I don't see that the particular school of economists you mention can help him much. Can these economists assist Congress?"

"I fear not," replied Mr. Trudge. "The majority in Congress does not seek the enlightenment of economists; it prefers extravaganzas."

"I like the Spanish termination," commented Budge. "Why not apply describe the majority in Congress as extravaganzas?"

"You are forgetting the subject," returned Trudge, "which is the relative merits of the terms overproduction and underconsumption in economic nomenclature."

"I know nothing about merits of nomenclature," responded Mr. Budge, "but I can briefly enumerate some of the leading varieties of overproduction and underconsumption for you."

He seated himself with a sheet of paper and in three and a half minutes laid with a list as follows:

OVERPRODUCTION.	UNDERCONSUMPTION.
Ideals.	Ideals.
Peace.	Peace.
Perk.	Perk.
Taxes.	Taxes.
Revenue.	Revenue.
Celebrity.	Celebrity.
Explanation.	Explanation.
Look.	Look.
Munition.	Munition.
Law.	Law.

"It seems to me that you are over-optimistic," said Mr. Trudge as he perused this tabulation. Mr. Budge looked surprised.

"Don't you know," he asked, "that there is no such thing as overoptimism? There's only underoptimism!"

HOW IT IS DONE.

A Simple Plan for the Reformation of Political Parties.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read with a good deal of interest your editorial article in lighter vein in reform of political parties and squaring the circle.

I quite agree with you that one is as absurd as the other, and that the Belgians, desiring to extend their empire over the earth, sent an army into Germany, demanding that it be permitted to pass through the land in order to annex the Turkish Empire. Germany refused, whereupon the Belgians, violating every item of their peace agreement, proceeded to destroy the German army and even sent to the extreme of massacre and child murder, and finally bound the German men in slavery, then France and England, wishing to annex a part of the German and Austrian empires each to itself, joined the Belgians in this unrighteous war and sent armies to the field and warships on the seas to capture and enslave the Teutonic people or destroy them.

Poland, seeing an opportunity to gain something at this epoch marked her armies into Germany and looted and destroyed many towns and cities, and finally, following the example of the Poles, attacked the Turks and Austrians with intent to destroy them, under a secret arrangement, made years ago with the Belgians, by which Belgium was to give Russia the city of Constantinople. Then Italy, under a private agreement to destroy the German land, joined the war in order to help Belgium get her a portion of the Austrian territory. Thus we plainly see that the real cause of the war is the desire of Belgium, aided by France, England, Poland, Russia and Italy, to annex a part of the German and Austrian empires each to itself, and to extend their empire into North America and Poland is to establish a military despotism in South America.

PHILIP W. PASADORE.

New York, January 27.

MAKERS' AMATEURS.

An Early Instance of Difficulty in Sporting Definitions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your interesting article on "Amateurism in Sport" and the story of the English amateur oarsman which you tell carried me back to a controversy which disturbed wheeling circles in England in the '80s.

At that time, when the 54 inch wheel was in its prime, I was secretary-treasurer of the Pioneer Cycling Club (which survived till July, 1914) and delegate for the North Road Cycling Club on the council of the National Cyclists Union of Great Britain. One of the matters submitted to the latter body came out of the employment of men to ride certain makes of bicycle by various manufacturers who used to watch the athletic and cycling club races and secured the services of such amateur riders as excelled in bicycle racing.

Many of these men were engaged as clerks in the counting houses of the different establishments away from the manufacturing and selling departments of the business. They were usually employed in bookkeeping or accountants' work on the implied but not expressed understanding that when called upon they would be willing to ride in races on specially constructed bicycles, and that they would be paid for doing so. Investigation brought out the fact that these gentlemen had special privileges; that is to say, they were allowed certain hours in which they might ride either on the road or on the track, according to their election, so as not to interfere with their class of men became known as "makers' amateurs," and when their status was questioned in England—it was some time before they were declared professionals—they were accepted as amateurs in France, and, I believe, also in the United States.

But this was not the only class of pseudo-amateurs in English sports. In athletic and boxing clubs there were occasionally men who were maintained by the organizations because of unusual ability to bring the club to the front in public contests. In due time these gentlemen too were declared professionals, and they too were in the class to which they belonged.

FRANK H. VIZETELLY.

New York, January 27.

WOMEN VOTERS.

Will Mr. Wilson Read Their Demands in the Light of the Past?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: At the White House gates women stand in an endeavor to heckle Mr. Wilson into taking a stand for woman suffrage. Mr. Hughes was defeated by women voters in the West. He came across splendidly in their favor, endorsing the Anthony amendment which made a short cut to woman suffrage by action of Congress. The women showed what they thought of Mr. Hughes and cut his political throat, and now they try to influence Mr. Wilson into taking a position favoring the question.

Why should he do so when the women voters of California elected him? If the women are to continue such "consistency" in their political conduct they will not make much progress in the East in their movement for suffrage.

BOSTON, January 27. BEACON HILL.

HENRY RAMOS.

Some of the Mellowness of His Drink Is in His Philosophy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I agree with Mr. Ramos, that there is a mystic ingredient in the Ramos fizz which is a secret between him and Bacchus. I also was a "regular" at the temple. I knew a Spaniard who was a bartender there for ten years or so and quit to open his own cafe far down North Manhattan street. He was an astute and shrewd fellow, but he could not give them the Ramos touch. He said he had mixed thousands, but he never knew what the secret ingredient.

Henry Ramos, so a legend goes, arrived in New Orleans from Baton Rouge, La., in 1830, and he was a native of his, or all his worldly wealth, now he has, or had five years ago, a handsome home in the French Quarter, palm surrounded and dignified, and on the first of the month cashed more checks than many a small bank.

In many years he never had taken a bad one. "Nearly every one is honest," he remarked to me.

He must be moderately wealthy, and he enjoys the friendship of New Orleans' most substantial citizens—all earned through a recipe. But what a recipe!

When he dies he should leave the secret to the world, else the heavenly potation must become only a memory.

Has no one a kind word for the poet, Sazera, also at his best at home, or for the free ham in the cafe of that name, or for the insidious but sparkling open cocktail? WANDERER.

New York, January 27.

WAR SECRETS.

An Exposure of Belgium's Appalling Last for World Power.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Why do people find it so difficult to understand the cause of the war in Europe? It really is so simple that any one ought to see it easily.

The Belgians, desiring to extend their empire over the earth, sent an army into Germany, demanding that it be permitted to pass through the land in order to annex the Turkish Empire. Germany refused, whereupon the Belgians, violating every item of their peace agreement, proceeded to destroy the German army and even sent to the extreme of massacre and child murder, and finally bound the German men in slavery, then France and England, wishing to annex a part of the German and Austrian empires each to itself, joined the Belgians in this unrighteous war and sent armies to the field and warships on the seas to capture and enslave the Teutonic people or destroy them.

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PHILIP W. PASADORE.

New York, January 27.

TEACHERS' ROOM.

Complaint of the Quarters for Hungry Schoolma'ams.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read the letter complaining of the terrible conditions for the high school girls. Why is it that public school teachers have to put up with such abominable quarters?

I know of one school where there is a teachers' room which is about ten by ten, dark, dingy, containing a smelly gas stove and not enough seats for the fifteen who eat there, and no comforts for them when they are sick and tired.

I do not know of any factory which would be allowed to maintain such a room. There are many like it in the city. Why is it that each school cannot have a well ventilated room with at least the comfort of a chair and a table to eat from for the mentally and physically tired teacher?

It is too bad the factory laws do not reach the public schools.

ALICE GREEN.

New York, January 27.